

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2003 (Paper No. 14). Claims 1 to 19 are currently in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0015167 (Watanabe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,041,323 (Kubota). Applicant has considered the Examiner's comments together with the applied references and respectfully submits that the claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied references for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 1 and 7 concern character processing where information relating to an area for displaying character data is stored in first storage means and character data in association with the area for displaying character data is stored in second storage means. The character data stored in the second storage means is arranged in a display area created in accordance with the information stored in the first storage means. Character data which can be arranged in the display area is displayed, while overflow character data which cannot be arranged in the display area is not displayed. It is judged whether a user has selected a predetermined designation for the display area in a case where overflow character data is present, where selection of the predetermined designation for the display area is not allowed in a case where overflow character data is not present. When it is judged that the predetermined designation has been selected for the display area in which overflow character data is present, the overflow character data which cannot be displayed in the display area is moved to third storage means.

Independent Claims 13 and 14 concern character processing in which character data, which is stored in storage means in association with a display area in which the character data is to be displayed, is arranged in the display area. Character data which can be arranged in the display area is displayed, while overflow character data which cannot be displayed in the display area is not displayed. It is judged whether a user has selected a predetermined designation for the display area in a case where overflow character data is present, where selection of the predetermined designation for the display area is not allowed in a case where overflow character data is not present. When it is judged that the predetermined designation has been selected for the display area in which overflow character data is present, the overflow character data which cannot be displayed in the display area is moved to another storage means for storing overflow character data.

The applied references are not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention. In particular, the applied references are not understood to disclose or suggest at least the feature of moving overflow character data which cannot be displayed in a display area to another storage means when a predetermined designation for the display area has been selected by a user.

Watanabe concerns a system for inputting a character string and producing a seal using the input character string. As described in paragraph 161 of Watanabe, when the number of characters in an input character string exceeds an allowable number for a particular line, the overflow characters are displayed with plex. However, as conceded in the Office Action, Watanabe is not understood to disclose or suggest moving these overflow characters to different storage means when a designation has been selected by a user.

Kubota, which was applied in combination with Watanabe, is not understood to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Watanabe. Kubota is understood to concern a method for searching documents for particular information. An index file used in Kubota's search method is created in the manner described beginning at column 24, line 30. When creating the index file, a memory region is secured for use as a work area having a predetermined size. As explained in column 24, beginning at line 55, when the memory region is full, the information stored therein is written to a second memory, a disk, as an intermediate file. The Office Action has contended that this process of writing the information from the memory region to the disk corresponds with the feature of the present invention of moving character data which cannot be displayed in a display area to another storage means. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Kubota.

When the memory region utilized in Kubota is full, all of the information stored therein is understood to be sorted and written to the disk as an intermediate file. This differs from the present invention in which the overflow character data is moved to another storage means while the character data which can be arranged in the display area is not moved to the other storage means. Furthermore, as shown in steps 410 and 412 of Figure 5 of Kubota, the writing of the information from the memory region to the disk is understood to be an automatic process based on regular checking of availability of the memory region and not dependent on a user selection of a predetermined designation. Therefore, Kubota is not understood to disclose the feature of moving overflow character data which cannot be displayed in a display area to another storage means when a predetermined designation for the display area has been selected by a user.

Since neither Watanabe nor Kubota, either alone or in combination, are understood to disclose or suggest the feature of moving overflow character data which cannot be displayed in a display area to another storage means when a predetermined designation for the display area has been selected by a user, independent Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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